



CONGRATULATIONS LARRY HOFFMAN



After 40 years in the Extension Service, Larry Hoffman has retired from Extension, and has accepted the new position of County Weed District Coordinator. Through his tenure with MSU Extension Larry worked on a wide variety of projects from the 4-H program to weed projects and in between.

Larry shares that, "The biggest impact and challenge for Extension over the years has been, and will continue to be, in its diversity. The traditional subject matter has been complimented and strengthened by resident and county needs in a dynamic, changing world."

Larry's expertise and working knowledge of Lewis & Clark County will be missed in the Extension office, and we wish him well in the future.

External County Review

November 17-19, 2009 an outside team of Extension Personnel was invited to participate in a series of meetings to assist in evaluating Extension and its role in Lewis & Clark County. This process is invaluable in helping to identify the areas in which Extension can maximize its impact on the community, and will serve to guide programming and educational efforts in the near future. In addition, the information gathered is being utilized to develop a Job Description for use in advertising for a new Extension Agent. This will immediately impact the County, as we expect to hire a new Agent in early 2010, based on this Review.

4-H Intern Expands Outreach to Local Military Families

Since 2004, Lewis & Clark County has participated in a grant provided to Montana to encourage military youth to participate in 4-H. In 2009, a portion of this funding was used to hire a summer intern to provide support to the 4-H program and expand opportunities for military youth in the county. Michelle Passmore is a graduate student at Montana State University, and her dedication to this project resulted in expanded opportunities for military youth through existing programs, as well as targeted opportunities such as Day Camps and GPS activities specifically designed for military youth. These Positive Youth Development opportunities are especially important for these youth who have had, or currently have family members serving abroad, and offer some stability during a challenging time for these youth.



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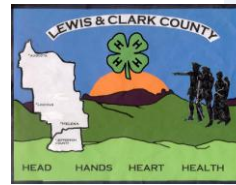
Call:
(406) 447-8346

Or:
www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us
www.msuextension.org
www.montana4h.org



Lewis & Clark County 4-H

Setting Our Sights on a Positive Future



4-H Incentives & Recognition

A major undertaking in 2009 was the complete overhaul of the County 4-H Awards program. By including both Youth and Adults in a cooperative partnership, committees worked hard to develop a recognition program that fits the National 4-H model in the five categories of:

1. Participation
2. Progress Toward Self-Set Goals
3. Standards of Excellence
4. Peer Competition
5. Cooperation



The resulting County Awards Program establishes exact standards for County Awards, and standardizes County Fair recognition across categories while allowing for recognition of outstanding achievement. Since the development of this program,

several other Montana counties have adopted aspects of this program for inclusion in their own county awards programs.

An Integral Part of the Community

4-H Youth learn the value of Community Service through experience. In Lewis & Clark County in 2009, 4-H Community Clubs provided over 1200 hours (valued at over \$24,000) of hands-on service, in addition to donating over \$1,800 to various community needs. This is in addition to the countless hours over 100 registered 4-H Volunteers offer throughout the year as they model civic engagement to our youth.

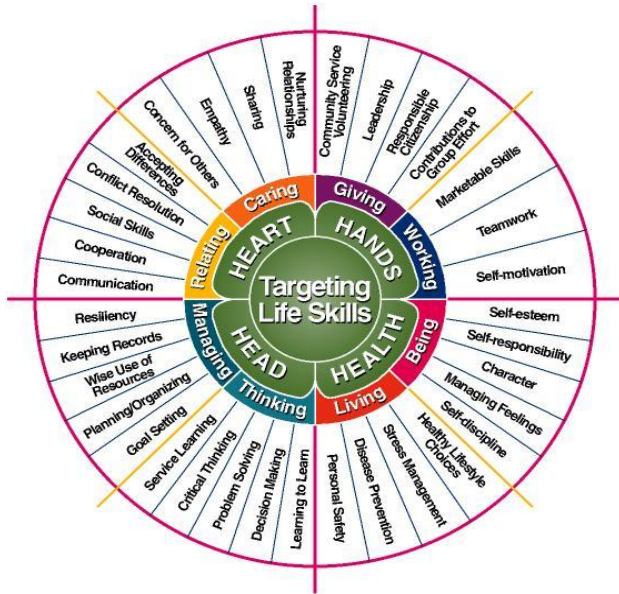


Individual Growth through Community Involvement

Logan McNeil, a junior member of 4-H in the Sweet Clovers 4-H Club, took his Weeds project to a whole new level in 2009. Beginning with an application for an Arbor Day Foundation grant, Logan solicited funds from a wide variety of sources to compile \$8,000 in funding to plant trees around the new Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. In addition, he gathered together 4-H and community members to help plant them on Arbor Day.

Not only did this result in the development of a great community asset, but Logan learned valuable Life Skills speaking to public groups, putting together grant applications, and coordinating large group activities. Logan also learned about the importance of landscaping in regard to weed management, making this a classis example of how **4-H uses Experiential Learning to teach both topical information and valuable Life Skills at the same time.**

LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: A 4-H EMPHASIS



While it is always rewarding to watch a child gain new knowledge or develop additional mastery, it sometimes comes as a surprise to learn that Project Knowledge is not the end goal of 4-H Project areas. Each of the 4-H projects is developed such that youth are learning valuable Life Skills along the way. In Beef, Sheep, and Swine projects, not only are youth learning about the agriculture industry and specific aspects of the species they are raising, but they are learning Responsibility, Record-Keeping, and Planning skills that will serve them regardless of their profession. Projects like Photography can be used to provide youth with an opportunity to learn Self-Motivation, Problem Solving and other necessary skills. Youth involved in Shooting Sports learn Focus, Safety, Goal Setting, and even Social Skills.

Traditional Education with a Modern Approach

4-H participants in traditional agricultural projects like Beef, Sheep, & Swine are constantly being challenged to stay current in a changing world. Quality Assurance education is an important part of understanding that their animal project is not just a pet, but someone's future menu item, and as such, their animal management practices can impact the quality and safety of that food product. In 2009, a new online video education system was undertaken in Lewis & Clark County that will make this education more accessible and broadly available to a widely varied audience. This program will be expanded in 2010 with additional videos, and made available on a statewide basis.



Private Applicator Recertification Trainings

Lewis and Clark County private applicator's licenses expire December 2009. Private applicators wanting to renew their license must have acquired 6 credits in a 5 year cycle by attending approved training programs. In May training programs were offered in Dearborn, Augusta and Helena. In October a training program was offered in Helena. A total of 127 participants took part in the 2009 training programs. The training programs were developed and instructed by Extension professionals from Lewis and Clark County, Montana State University and private industry representatives.

Weed District Separation

After having been managed by the Extension office in Lewis & Clark County for many years, the County Weed District is officially becoming its own entity, under the management of Lewis & Clark County Public Works. The Weed District can be contacted at 447-8372.

MSU OUTREACH – Resources and materials available.

We are located at 100 W. Custer, on the county fairgrounds. Our office phone number is (406) 447-8346 and the web site is: www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/departments/extension.html

Horticulture

- Insect and disease management
- Yard and garden management
- Trees and shrub management

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Credit and money management
- Estate Planning
- Food preservation and safety
- Pressure gauge testing

Agriculture

- Farm and ranch management
- Crop and livestock management
- Biological and pesticide management
- Soil and forage evaluations
- Forage Certification
- Private Applicator Training/Licensing

4-H/ Youth Development

- Project Curricula

.....and MORE!



Working together to bring the residents of Lewis & Clark County practical knowledge and support for local needs.



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